

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 895

S E C R E T BRASILIA 7064

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAS NU VE BR
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR MFN ON NICARAGUA

1. SECRETARY GENERAL (NO. 2 IN FOREIGN MINISTRY)
RECEIVED ME AT 5:15 P.M. TO DISCUSS NICARAGUAN SITUATION.
HE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HAD DECIDED SEPTEMBER 6 TO
ABSTAIN ON VENEZUELAN PROPOSAL CITING ARTICLE 18 AS BASIS.
BRAZILIAN REPRESENTATIVE HAD BEEN SO INSTRUCTED.
2. SECRETARY GENERAL WAS AWARE OF TRAVELS OF COSTA
RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN CENTRAL AMERICA. BUT HE SAID
FOREIGN MINISTRY DID NOT HAVE CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT THIS
INVOLVED NOR OF REACTION AMONG OAS MEMBERS TO VENEZUELAN
INITIATIVE. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD NOT CONSIDERED WHAT
MFN MIGHT DO IF ACTUALLY CONVOKED BUT FOREIGN MINISTER
HAD LIMITED HIMSELF STRICTLY TO DECIDING THAT BRAZIL
WOULD ABSTAIN ON INITIATIVE.

3. IN EFFORT DRAW OUT SECRETARY GENERAL I NOTED THAT
RECENT EVENTS SUCH AS DEPARTURE OF SANDISTA GROUP TO
PANAMA AND STATED INTENTIONS OF GROUP TO RETURN TO
NICARAGUA SUGGESTED SITUATION HAD SPILLED OVER TO
OTHER COUNTRIES. BECAUSE HE HAD EMPHASIZED CENTRAL
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AMERICAN NATURE OF PROBLEM WE LAPSED INTO PHILOSOPHICAL
DISCUSSION AS TO WHETHER PANAMA WAS IN CENTRAL
AMERICA AND CONCLUDED IT WAS BOLIVARIAN COUNTRY.

4. I CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT WE VALUED BRAZIL'S
OPINION AND ALWAYS LIKED TO CONSULT OUR BRAZILIAN
FRIENDS AS WE STRUGGLED WITH OUR OWN POSITION. HE

THANKED ME FOR THE EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE. I LEFT
IT WITH HIM THAT I WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEEKEND
IF ANY THOUGHTS OCCURRED TO HIM.

5. COMMENT: BRAZIL'S POSITION IS HARD ON THIS ONE.
IT WAS A VERY CORDIAL CONVERSATION BUT THE
SECRETARY GENERAL STUCK STRICTLY TO HIS SCRIPT. THE
ONLY HINT HE GAVE OF AN INTEREST IN THE ISSUE WAS HIS
REFERENCE TO THE COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRAVELS
AND THEREFORE THE IMPLICATION THAT THE CENTRAL
AMERICAN COUNTRIES MIGHT RESOLVE IT AMONG THEMSELVES.
I DO NOT EXPECT ANY THOUGHTS FROM THE BRAZILIANS.
SAYRE

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NNN

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